

# WATER –

## An Issue of Scarcity, Pollution or Politics?

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# If I ask for a glass of safe drinking water –

**Who will ensure it?**

- WASA?
- Companies supplying bottled water?
- Multinational Companies (MNCs)?
- Or WHO (World Health Organization)?

## How it will be ensured ?

- Thru chemical analysis?
- Thru microbial estimation?
- OR thru merely a naked eye? (*what poor class of the country is forced to do!*)



# Do You Know?

- 25% of our population is forced to drink surface water along with animals
- Further 50% use unsafe ground water which is high in heavy metals and risky microbes
- Next 20% use apparently safe drinking water from deep ground water resources (Never Tested?)
- Less than 5% have approach to bottled water (whether safe, nobody knows)

# Quality of Bottled Water?

Majority thinks that bottled water is mineral water. This is untrue! Total absurdity!

Because:

Bottled water of 89 local companies were tested and only 12 qualified!

None of the qualified company supplied mineral water. That was all fountain water.

## Price is another havoc!

### *A liter of bottled water worth*

- One liter milk at farmer level
- Half a liter milk at urban centers
- $\frac{1}{4}$  liter of cooking oil
- $\frac{1}{4}$  liter of petrol, etc.....



# Future Focus of MNCs

Since bottled water is a big future industry, MNCs are in throat cutting competition!

Past and present wars are being fought for land, energy resources and markets

But

Future wars will break out for Water Resources

# FUTURE? How Long?

- 100 years?
- 50 years?

NO – within 10 to 20 years

YES – This estimation is based on some  
Indicators



# INDICATORS

- World Bank & IMF are imposing pre-conditions for the privatization of water resources while sanctioning loans
- Nine out of 500 top MNCs have already taken initiative to hold the water economy of Latin America and Africa
- Now they have entered in the regions of China, India and Eastern Europe

- Present trade volume of bottled water is <US\$ 100 billion per annum
- <200 billion liter water is being packed
- MNCs have approached 4.5% of global population
- MNCs are purchasing rivers and dams. For instance,
  - 2 MNCs have taken over a river and a dam recently on lease from Kerala Government (India)

Govt of Chatesh Garh (India) has also privatized 27 km of Shevnath River



- 220 rivers of Third World countries cross international boundaries, hence disputed claims and reclaims on their runoff are becoming vulnerable among nations. For instance:
- Egypt vs Ethiopia on Nile River
- Israel vs Palestine & Syria on Jordan River (Israel occupied 3% river in 1967, now 100%)
- India vs Nepal on Kosi Barrage
- India vs Bangladesh on Farakha Barrage
- India vs Pakistan on Indus water



## MOREOVER;

- Province vs province in Pakistan (Kalabagh Dam dispute, for example)
- Tail population with upstream
- Revengeful over-irrigation at downstream of River Indus, hence causing water logging and drainage problems in Sindh

# WHY THIS POLITICS?

**Mankind is thirsty for water but MNCs have a thirst for profit:**

- Average profit from a bottle of water is 25 – 50%, provided company use best water treatment techniques (Reverse Osmosis or Membrane systems)
- Profit goes higher if company reduces quality
- Our cottage industry is going even worst in quality but climbing the profit ladder up & up



# ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES in Water Wars

- **UNDP** – issuing warnings only
- **WHO** – crying for water quality
- **WB / IMF** – pre-conditions privatization of water resources while sanction loans
- **World Watch** – concentrates on food security
- **World Water Council** – secretly promoting water privatization / liberalization in Asia
- **World Water Forum** – sponsored by MNCs



# Where We Are?

**Global Civil Society focuses more on following issues instead of WATER**

- Poverty Reduction
- Human Rights
- Women Rights
- Child Labor
- Good Governance
- Illiteracy
- Environments

## We in Pakistan?

- Honor Killing
- Hadood Ordinance
- Roshan Khiali
- Kalabagh Dam
- Taxes
- Dearnness

# LAST BUT NOT LEAST!

WATER will be expensive than petrol and other food items in near future!

Should we allow Mass Killing thru?

- Polluted potable water
- Expensive bottled water
- Future Water Wars



Please Think!  
Thank You